

CM 334178

1942 SABOTEURS CASE

DASCH + BURGER

CORRESPONDENCE PART 2

From the Capital: The Untold Story of the Nazi Saboteurs



Landed by U-boat, "saboteurs" Dasch...

On June 13, 1942, four German saboteurs—George John Dasch, Ernest Peter Burger, Richard Quirin, and Henrich H. Heinck—landed from a submarine on the tip of Long Island, New York. Four days later, another quartet—Herbert H. Haupt, Edward J. Kerling, Hermann O. Neubauer, and Werner Thiel—came ashore in Florida. In less than a fortnight all were in custody. On Aug. 8, six of the spies were executed in Washington and two had gone to prison in Atlanta.

The trial of the German invaders was secret. But Attorney General Tom Clark has authorized that all hitherto suppressed testimony of both witnesses and defendants be made public. The documents disclosed that two of the saboteurs, Dasch and Burger, betrayed the other six, exposed the whole plot to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and thus saved their own lives. Both men, though German born, had once worked in the United States, Dasch as a waiter, Burger as a machinist.

John U. Terrell of NEWSWEEK's Washington bureau tells for the first time the complete story of why Germany's major sabotage effort in this country failed.

The Case of George Dasch

On the evening of May 28, 1942, Dasch, Burger, Quirin, and Heinck sailed in a German submarine from Lorient, France. Dasch, the leader of the group, had taken a secret vow to defeat their mission and so to help eliminate Hitler. Burger, too, was bitter against the Nazis and especially the Gestapo. The two men

were aware of each other's sentiments. En route to the United States, Dasch carefully studied the equipment of the U-boat with the intention of revealing its secrets to the FBI.

In the morning darkness of Saturday, June 13, off Long Island, the four men paddled ashore from the submarine in a rubber boat. They were approached by a Coast Guardsman, who demanded of Dasch: "What are you doing here? What's up here?"

Submarine seamen were waiting to take the rubber boat back to the U-boat. Dasch remembered his instructions to overpower any witness and turn him over to the seamen. But he had no desire to kill the Coast Guardsman and ordered the seamen to leave. He told the Coast Guardsman: "You have undoubtedly given your oath to do your duty, and I am telling you by taking this money which I am offering you, you are doing nothing else but your duty. You will hear from me in Washington... What is your name, boy?"

Dasch testified the Coast Guardsman replied: "Frank Collins, sir." (The Coast Guardsman's name was John C. Cullen. Under the strain and excitement of the moment Dasch might have misunderstood the name.)

Dasch said he gave "Collins" \$300 and told the Coast Guardsman to take a good look at him in order to be able to recognize him again. This statement was corroborated by Cullen.

Thus, a few minutes after landing Dasch began to lay the groundwork for revealing the whole plot and proving his intention to surrender.

The Frank Offer: The four spies split up in Jamaica. Dasch and Burger took a room in the Governor Clinton Hotel in New York. In their room that night and next morning, Sunday, Dasch and Burger frankly discussed their predicament and disclosed to each other that each came to the United States to work against the Nazis.

Sunday evening Dasch and Burger met Quirin and Heinck, who were staying at the Hotel Martinique. Dasch told them he would have to leave town for a few days to make some contacts. Burger knew Dasch was going to Washington to give himself up to J. Edgar Hoover.

That same night, with Burger listening, Dasch telephoned the FBI office in New York. He talked with Special Agent Dean F. McWhortor and, as McWhortor later was to testify, gave the name of Frank Daniel Pastorius. This was the code name for Dasch's group of saboteurs. Dasch told McWhortor he was a German citizen who had arrived the preceding day and had information for Washington. He gave his physical description, asked that a record be made of the call, declined an invitation to come to the FBI office, but asked Mc-

Whortor to notify Washington Pastorius would go there to talk with Hoover.

On Thursday, Dasch took a 2:30 p.m. train to the capital.

Friday morning Dasch telephoned the Government Information Service and asked whom he should contact to disclose military information. He was referred to the Adjutant General's office and the FBI. Dasch telephoned the Army and was given the office of Col. H. P. Kramer. Kramer was not in, but Dasch left word with Kramer's secretary for the colonel to call him in Room 351, Hotel Mayflower. An hour later Kramer phoned. Dasch answered and gave his true name, stating he had landed with a group of German spies and wished to give information. Dasch also told Kramer he had telephoned the FBI.

This was true. Finding Kramer out, Dasch had telephoned FBI headquarters and had spoken with Special Agent Duane L. Traynor, who said he would send agents to pick up Dasch immediately.

For the next five days Dasch was questioned by agents. He revealed the whereabouts of Burger, Heinck, and Quirin, gave detailed information about the submarine, disclosed plans for sabotage in the Panama Canal Zone, told about the Florida landing party, and gave other information the FBI desired.

Thus, six days after the saboteurs had landed on Long Island, the FBI knew the whole plot—thanks to Dasch.

The Promised Reward: On June 27, Special Agents Traynor, Donegan, Johnstone, and Wills made Dasch a



U. S. Signal Corps from European

... and Burger revealed all to the FBI

From the Capital: The Untold Story of the Nazi Saboteurs

proposition. The trial record reads: "A proposal was made to Dasch, that he plead guilty to the charge of coming to the United States on a mission for the Germans. It was part of the proposal to Dasch that after his plea of guilty he should be sentenced, that he should not divulge anything with respect to this agreement during the proceedings [the trial] and that several months after the case had died down the FBI would obtain a Presidential pardon for him. Dasch at first agreed to the proposition and then stated he would not go through with it. [Agent] Wills stated that thereupon he and Johnstone made an effort to persuade Dasch to go through with the proposed course of action, telling Dasch that he should have some consideration for his father and mother and relatives over in German-occupied countries who would be liable to retaliation by the Germans."

Dasch demanded to be exonerated. But he made a poor impression at the trial. A highly nervous man, he acted up, created unpleasant situations, and fought with his own counsel. He was given 30 years in prison.

Dasch is still in Atlanta. Ever since going there he has begged for permission to write his own story. Authorities refuse to let him have even a pencil. He is held incommunicado.

The Department of Justice is considering steps to have him pardoned. But Dasch is a military prisoner, and the Army must make a request for his pardon. So far the Army has either forgotten him or ignored him.

The Case of Ernest Burger

Burger, a resident of the Midwest for years, was taken into custody by FBI agents at the Governor Clinton Hotel the day after Dasch confessed in Washington.

The saboteurs who landed on Long Island had orders to carry nothing of German origin ashore with them. But Burger disobeyed. With him from the U-boat he took a partially filled bottle of schnapps and a package of German cigarettes. He purposely dropped the cigarettes near the edge of the water, and the schnapps a little further up the beach. He threw away his cap, which bore the insignia of the German Marine Infantry. It was his plan to leave a clear trail to the spot where the saboteurs buried their boxes of explosives.

Walking along the shore, Burger dropped numerous other articles—socks, shoes, a vest, bathing trunks, and raincoat. While burying the boxes, he purposely dragged a sea bag through the sand, leaving a track which might be discovered. He buried the sea bag with the top exposed a bit and also left a spade lying on the shore. The drag marks of the

bag were spotted by searchers and led to the explosives.

Burger claimed, and Dasch confirmed the assertion, that before they left Germany both men knew of each other's intention to defeat the mission. In Paris, en route to Lorient, Dasch and Burger had their first lengthy conversation about disclosing the plot. There, according to Burger, Dasch talked with an American who was to be returned to the United States on an exchange ship, revealing his plan to surrender to the FBI. Dasch, with Burger's knowledge, did this so he could prove that even before sailing he had no intention of going through with the sabotage.

In their room at the Governor Clinton Hotel, Burger and Dasch put their cards on the table, formulating their plan to surrender.

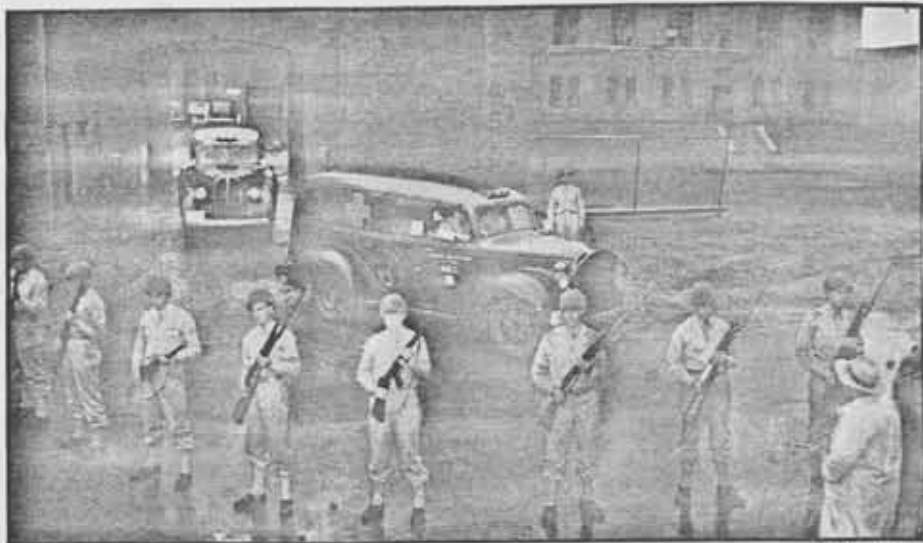
The trial record states: "That evening [Saturday] Dasch stated he had a plan which would keep them out of difficulty in the United States. The discussion was resumed the following morning at which

Burger testified that the reason Dasch waited from Sunday to Thursday to go to Washington was because "Dasch had more or less of a nervous breakdown."

Burger remained in his room at the Governor Clinton most of Saturday, June 20, as he expected to receive some word from Dasch in Washington or from the FBI. He left his door unlocked. At 5 p.m. agents entered and arrested him.

Burger had been an aide-de-camp to the purged Storm Trooper Chief Ernst Roehm. Suspected of being disloyal, Burger was charged with falsification of papers and imprisoned for seventeen months, after which the charges were dismissed. But during his imprisonment, the Gestapo told Mrs. Burger that her husband had stolen money and would be sentenced to serve eight years in a chain gang. The Gestapo advised Mrs. Burger to get a divorce.

The trial document states: "This false information caused Burger's wife, who was pregnant at the time, to have a miscarriage and a nervous breakdown."



International

Burger and Dasch went to jail, the bodies of their six companions to unmarked graves

time Dasch told Burger that when he returned to Germany he found conditions there much worse than he had expected and that he believed the present German regime should be overthrown. Burger then told Dasch that he had left the articles on the beach in the hope that they would be discovered. It was agreed to telephone the New York office of the FBI that they were going to see J. Edgar Hoover.

"They did not wish to go to the New York office because they had been told in Germany that all FBI offices, except the headquarters in Washington, were being watched by the agents of the Gestapo. Dasch made the call to the New York office about 7:30 p.m."

This made Burger very bitter against the Gestapo . . . He did not desire to leave by unlawful methods because of fear of retribution against his wife. He therefore volunteered for service outside of Germany, which resulted in his subsequent trip to the United States."

After his arrest Burger supplied the FBI with information about the German Secret Service, told how he had heard while in Lorient that two German naval experts were en route to New Jersey, and outlined operations of Gestapo agents in Central and South America.

No proposition was made to Burger by FBI agents such as that offered Dasch. Burger escaped execution but received a sentence of life imprisonment.

~~SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

1946/1139

SPJGE 1946/1139

Jan. 14, 1946

Re: George John Dasch
Ernest Burger

63A-1653

49

2/72'4-2

1946/1139

Please return to:
Mail & Records Branch
Judge Advocate General's Office
Department of the Army

(ORIGINAL
FILED W/OTJAG, DA.
PENTAGON, WASH, D.C. 20310
UNDER ACCESSION # 63A-1653)

see also 383.4, 28 June 1942 (Uncl.)

PLEASE RETURN TO CLASSIFIED MESSAGE SECTION, J.A.G.O.

Automatically Regraded UNCLASSIFIED
Authority E.O. 12065

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~SECRET~~

SPJGE

46/1139
X(2)
5658
JAN 14 1946 788
Honorable John Edgar Hoover
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

There is inclosed herewith a copy of a letter from Mrs. Marie C. Dasch to The Judge Advocate General, received in this office on January 2, 1946, requesting clemency in the case of her husband, George John Dasch, who is now confined in a United States penitentiary. Dasch is, as you will recall, one of the saboteurs convicted by military commission convened by the President in 1942.

The Attorney General has requested the Secretary of War to handle the case of Dasch as one of a military prisoner. Consideration of clemency for military prisoners is ordinarily under the supervision of the Under Secretary of War. The present Under Secretary of War, Honorable Kenneth C. Royall, represented certain defendants at the trial in the course of which Dasch was sentenced, but did not represent Dasch. He feels, however, that in view of his connection with the trial he should not participate in any consideration of Dasch's case and states that he will not do so. He has instructed me to take such action as may be appropriate.

The Under Secretary of War has also instructed me to request your views concerning the propriety of clemency. I shall appreciate any information or expression of views which you may care to transmit.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas H. Green

THOMAS H. GREEN
Major General
The Judge Advocate General
HMG

✓ 1 Incl
Cpy ltr from
Mrs Marie C. Dasch

Hoover;HD/pir

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 21, 1946

Major General Thomas H. Green
The Judge Advocate General
Headquarters, Army Service Forces
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear General Green:

This will acknowledge your communication of January 14, 1946, with enclosure, in which you requested an expression of my views concerning the propriety of clemency with respect to George John Dasch, who was convicted by a military commission convened by the President in 1942.

The problem of clemency for both Dasch and Ernest Peter Burger, who was convicted along with Dasch, is a matter to be considered by the Attorney General. In view of this fact, I am taking the liberty of forwarding a copy of your communication and the enclosure to him.

I appreciate your interest in writing to me concerning this matter.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Dear Sirs :
I have not
prepared a letter
to General Grant
thinking you
would write to
him the
matter over.
H. S.

SPJGE

JAN 14 1946 *LEB*

Honorable Theron L. Caudle
Assistant Attorney General

Dear Mr. Caudle:

Reference is made to your letter to the Secretary of War, dated December 27, 1945, inclosing a communication from Mrs. Marie C. Dasch, wife of George John Dasch, requesting clemency in the case of her husband who was convicted and sentenced by a military commission and is now confined in a United States penitentiary. Your letter has been referred to me for reply.

Consideration of clemency for military prisoners is ordinarily under the supervision of the Under Secretary of War. The present Under Secretary of War, Honorable Kenneth C. Royall, represented certain defendants at the trial in the course of which Dasch was sentenced, but did not represent Dasch at the trial. Secretary Royall feels that in view of his connection with the trial he should not participate in any consideration or discussion of Dasch's case, and he will not therefore do so. He has instructed me to take such action as may be appropriate.

I shall make further inquiry into the matter.

Sincerely yours,

THOMAS H. Green
THOMAS H. GREEN
Major General
The Judge Advocate General

14048

Hoover-HD/pir

ATTY-GENERAL
LETTER

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

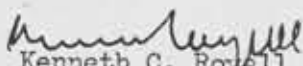
3 January 1945⁶

MEMORANDUM FOR BRIG. GEN. THOMAS H. GREEN.
The Judge Advocate General
Room 2050 Munitions Building
Washington 25, D. C.

In accordance with our conversation I would like the matter of John Dasch, referred to in the attached correspondence, handled by you direct with the Department of Justice without referring to me any of the decisions that may be made. As you will recall, I represented certain of those tried at the same time as Dasch and I feel that I should not influence any decision that might be made as to him.

You will probably want to take the matter up with General Cramer and possibly with the F. B. I. before determining the War Department's position.

In your letter to the Department of Justice please correct the statement that I represented Dasch at the trial and also indicate that I am not participating in any decision made about his case.


Kenneth C. Royall
Under Secretary of War.

KCR/g

Incl. ltr. frm. Asst.
Atty. Gen. Dtd 12/27/45
to S/W.

ADDRESS REPLY TO
"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL"
AND REFER TO
INITIALS AND NUMBER

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

December 27, 1945

WAR DEPARTMENT
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

1945 DEC 28 AM 11:01

TLC:JJM:vng

146-7-4219-1

Under Secretary

The Honorable,
The Secretary of War,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

We are enclosing herewith for appropriate attention a copy of a letter from Mrs. Marie C. Dasch, wife of George John Dasch, dated December 3, 1945, and for your information a copy of our reply thereto.

No doubt, you will recall that Dasch was one of the eight German saboteurs apprehended in June 1942, and subsequently convicted by a military commission, and also that Undersecretary of War Kenneth Royall was appointed to represent Dasch at the trial.

Respectfully,

For the Attorney General,

Theron L. Caudle

THERON L. CAUDLE,
Assistant Attorney General.

Enc. No. 95808.

RECORDED TO 2 2 5
DEC 27 1945
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FOR DEFENSE



5 JAN 1 1946

OSW 095 Dasch, George John (12/27/45)

2 JAN '46 PM



WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE, UNDER SECRETARY
MAIL AND RECORDS

Recorded in E & S 3638

U S N O

C
O
P
Y

Dec 1945
Post Office Box #45
Perth Amboy, N.J.

Major Gen. Thomas H. Green
Judge Advocate Gen.
U.S. War Dept.
Washington D. C.

My Dear Sir:

In view of the disclosures on the evils of Nazism before the Allied Tribunal at Nuernberg and in result to the inquiry as respectfully requested by my husband Mr. George J. Dasch in his letter of June 10th 1942, which I hope was undertaken, I pray, that the words and deeds of my husband in his successful fight against that evil are now better understood and their basic motive and true aim fully recognized and as such may form the basis for speedy and just measures that will insure his freedom which he so rightfully has earned. May I Sir expect your answer to this most earnest entreaty. Thank you Sir very kindly.

I remain as ever

Mrs. Marie C. Dasch

Colonel Albert W. Johnson
Chief Military Justice Division
Office of the Judge Advocate General
Washington D.C. 25.

Mar 16. 1946
Post Office Box # 45
Perth Amboy N.J.

gcm

Dear Sir:

This is to express my sincere appreciation for your communication of April 16, 1946, relating to the War-Department's steps in reviewing the record of trial in the case of my husband Geo. J. Dasch, and that on the matter of clemency a final decision is pending in the War-Department.

We, my husband and my self, pray, that such decision may be compatible with the obvious and undeniable truth, namely, that of my husband having rendered a decisive and far-reaching service to our Government and people and this under circumstances that clearly involved the risk of his own life.

May I also call the attention of the War Department to the letter, my husband, on March 5, 1946, addressed to the Hon. Tom C. Clark, U. S. Attorney General, and which on advice from the Department of Justice, as of April 2, 1946, has been forwarded to the Department, you Sir, so ably represent.

Sincerely and respectfully yours.

Mrs. Marie C. Dasch

No action
necessary
Aug.



222
MAR 22 1946

MAR 22 1946



Reg. 22486

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text follows, appearing to be a memorandum or report.]

AFTER 5 DAYS RETURN TO

Mrs. Marie C. Dasch
P.O. Box # 46
Perth Amboy N.J.



May Gen. E. F. Dittsell
Adj. Gen. Office
War.-Dept.
Washington D.C.



May. Gen. E. H. Mitchell
Adj. Gen. Office
War Department
Washington D.C.

KC
March 20 1946
P.O. Box # 45
Perth Amboy N.J.

Dasch, George J.

My Dear Sir..

I wish to call to your attention my letter of January 24. 1946 and pray to receive a reply there-on soon. more-over so do I pray that this obvious injustice, and punishment, which is causing my husband Mr. George J. Dasch much suffering, can be recognized and will lead to immediate steps which will end this nightmare we are both enduring, and who's suffering is mentally as real and underserved as that of mine. I can never be made to believe it to be the tradition of my People to punish a man because he could neither be weak nor subservient to the evils of Nazism and who, by his own concrete actions, initiative and risk, unmistakably has shown his fidelity and concern for, and trust in, the American People and thereby gave a factual and conscious demonstration of the only oath he has ever given as a soldier and that on his enlistment into the army of the U.S. to defend its flag in time of war. In the hope and prayer that the above may be received in its true light, that of forthright honesty and in the sole interest of truth and Justice, and that I may anticipate an early reply soon.

I remain respectfully Yours,

Mrs. Marie C. Dasch.

P. O. Box 241,
Laguna Beach,
California,

January 22, 1946.

The Honorable

The Secretary of War,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to submit herewith for your perusal and kind consideration an article, clipped from "Newsweek" of November 12, 1945, entitled "From the Capital: The Untold Story of the Nazi Saboteurs", and setting forth the circumstances surrounding the imprisonment of George Dasch and Ernest Burger.

If the "Newsweek" statement of these cases is a statement of fact, as I assume it to be because of "Newsweek" general reliability and high average of accuracy, I can deduce from the article only that a tragic injustice has been done these young men, whose acknowledged and proven intentions were to cooperate with the United States against Nazi enemies and who actually supplied our Government with useful, even vital, information that thwarted the activities in the United States of a group of trained saboteurs. It would seem more logical, indeed, to have rewarded them for their valuable cooperation than to have imprisoned them.

If, after consideration of the enclosed article and due investigation of the facts, you find that these cases permit and justify action by the Department of War, might it not be possible

- 2 -

for you, Sir, to take such steps as would lead, through Army or other channels, to the pardon and release of Dasch and Burger? Pardon and release seem to me about the least that can be done now in rectification of a dreadful error.

Thanking you in advance for your goodness in giving this matter your attention, I am, Sir,

Respectfully yours,

Harris N. Cookingham
Harris N. Cookingham.

✓ | Enclosure:

, "Newsweek" article,
as above (2 pages).



SPJGJ 1946/1139

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF WAR

SUBJECT: Clemency for Saboteurs Dasch and Burger

WJHJR
(who as former Counsel for Burger, disagreed with himself)

1. By memorandum for The Judge Advocate General dated 3 January 1946 there was referred to this office by the Under Secretary of War, certain correspondence from The Attorney General and from the wife of George John Dasch, one of the German saboteurs convicted by military commission in July, 1942. The question presented is whether clemency should be extended at this time to Dasch and to Ernest Peter Burger. The other six saboteurs were executed by shooting on 6 August 1942.

2. Dasch and Burger are now prisoners in the United States Penitentiary at Atlanta, Georgia. In view of the fact that the two prisoners were convicted by a military tribunal, The Attorney General *of clemency* *(see)* decided that the ~~clemency~~ matter should be considered by the War Department. On 14 January 1946, The Judge Advocate General requested the opinion of the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation on the propriety of clemency for Dasch. On 21 January 1946, the Director replied that he had referred ~~the~~ the matter to The Attorney General. On 5 February 1946, The Attorney General replied in pertinent part as follows:

"I have carefully reviewed this case and it is my view that it would be appropriate for this man to receive clemency, provided that, upon his release, he be delivered to the Immigration and Naturalization Service for deportation."

3. The record of trial of the two subject prisoners has been examined in this office. It appears that prior to being sent to the United States, Dasch and Burger claim they were in league against the Nazi party (R. 2530), that Dasch was the leader of the group which landed with him on Saturday, 13 June 1942 (R. 2531), that he insisted *and* on coming unarmed, [^] that he landed with two armed German sailors under orders to overpower any witness and return the witness to Germany on the submarine. *He stated that* ~~that~~ against orders he did not seize the Coast Guardsman whom

Ford, PH/cfs

Automatically Regraded

Authority E.O. 12065

UNCLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

he met on the beach (R. 2532-2534)²⁸⁵⁴. ~~that~~ The Coastguardsman was able to identify Dasch (R. 103). ~~that~~ Dasch had told the Coastguardsman to "take a good look" at him and had removed his hat and used his flashlight which helped the Coastguardsman to get a "good look"

(R. 106, 118, 119, 2534). ~~that~~ On Sunday, 14 June 1942, Dasch and Burger had a "heart-to-heart" talk (R. 2537)¹¹²²⁻¹¹²⁴. ~~that~~ Burger knew that Dasch planned to report to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (R. 2566)^{1129, and}, ~~that~~ Dasch asked Burger to wait until Dasch had time to report in his own way (R. 2566).

~~that~~ Also on Sunday, 14 June 1942, Dasch phoned the F.B.I. from New York about 7:40 p.m., telling them that he was a German citizen who arrived in the United States "yesterday morning" and would contact the Washington office Thursday or Friday to make a statement (R. 2538)^{1129, 1130}. ~~that~~ Dasch thereafter played cards at a waiters' club ^{from Monday night through Wednesday morning} for ~~24~~ days because he was dead tired and very nervous (R. 2539)^{1133-1134, 2562, 2862}. ~~that~~ On Thursday, 18 June 1942, at 7:15 p.m., Dasch arrived in Washington (R. 2539), ~~that~~ on Friday morning, 19 June 1942, ~~Dasch~~ phoned a Government Information office to ask whom to call to disclose information of a military value, ~~and~~

^{He} was given two numbers to call (R. 2539-2540)^{1140, and}, ~~that~~ he called one and left a message for the colonel in charge, ^{He} ~~and~~ then called the F.B.I. and arranged for an agent to come to this hotel (R. 2540). ~~that~~ When the colonel returned his call, Dasch told him of the F. B. I. appointment.

(R. 2540), ~~that~~ Five F.B.I. agents came to Dasch's hotel room (R. 2541)^{about 10:30 A.M.}, ~~that~~ Dasch thereafter underwent interrogation for five days (R. 2541). ~~that~~

^{stated he} Dasch gave names and revealed all the details of the sabotage plan (R. 2543) ~~that~~ ^{that} Dasch informed the F.B.I. ^{that Burger was waiting in New York (R. 1880)}, ~~that~~ Dasch was informed at first that he was in "protective custody"

and was not put "under arrest" until ^{24 June} 28 or 29 June 1942 (R. 2544)⁴⁷⁶. ~~that~~

^{stated he} On Saturday night, 27 June 1942, Dasch agreed to plead "guilty" ~~under~~ with the understanding that publicity would be avoided in order to protect

his parents in Germany from reprisals and with an agreement that he would get a Presidential pardon three to six months later (R. 2545-2546). ~~that~~

Shortly thereafter Dasch saw his picture in a newspaper and decided he had been deceived and ^{determined} ~~would~~ therefore plead "not guilty" (R. 2546),

3 January 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR BRIG. GEN. THOMAS H. GREEN.
The Judge Advocate General
Room 2050 Munitions Building
Washington 25, D. C.

In accordance with our conversation I would like the matter of John Dasch, referred to in the attached correspondence, handled by you direct with the Department of Justice without referring to me any of the decisions that may be made. As you will recall, I represented certain of those tried at the same time as Dasch and I feel that I should not influence any decision that might be made as to him.

You will probably want to take the matter up with General Cramer and possibly with the F. B. I. before determining the War Department's position.

In your letter to the Department of Justice please correct the statement that I represented Dasch at the trial and also indicate that I am not participating in any decision made about his case.

Kenneth C. Royall
Under Secretary of War.

KCR/g

Incl. ltr. frm. Asst.
Atty. Gen. Dtd 12/27/45
to S/W.

TLC:JJM:lr

146-7-4219-1

December 27, 1945

Mrs. Marie C. Dasch
Post Office Box #45
Perth Amboy, New Jersey

Dear Mrs. Dasch:

This will acknowledge your letter of December 3, 1945.

In view of the fact that your husband, George John Dasch, was convicted by a military tribunal we have referred your letter to the War Department for its consideration.

Respectfully,

For the Attorney General

THERON L. CAUDLE,
Assistant Attorney General

OSW-17
(6-15-44)

TRANSMITTAL SLIP

Date _____

To: Col. Hoover

Herewith, per your request,
the Darch letter.

Mac

ROBERT L. McCARTY
Captain, A. C.

Office of The Under Secretary of War.

3D-719 Pentagon

Ext. 74539

HEADQUARTERS ARMY SERVICE FORCES
MEMO ROUTING SLIP

To the following in order indicated:

	(Name or title)	(Organization)	(Building and room)	(Initials)	(Date)
1	Capt. M. Carty	OHSW	Rm 3E689		
2					
3					

Case of George J. Dasch
you requested

From:	(Name)	(Organization)	(Building and room)	(Date)	(Telephone)
	Jaray	Correction Div.	2C316	7 Jan	2048

INCLOSURE

Nº 95808

FROM

Department of Justice

7-849

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

C
O
P
Y

To
The Honorable Tom C. Clark
U.S. Attorney General
Washington, D. C.

Dec. 3rd, 1945
Post Office Box #45
Perth Amboy, N.J.

Dear Sir:

In view of the disclosures on the evils of Nazism before the Allied Tribunal at Nuernberg and in result to the inquiry as respectfully requested by my Husband in his letter of June 10, 1942, which I hope was undertaken, "I pray, that the words and deeds of my Husband in his successful fight against that evil are now better understood and their basic motive and true aim fully recognized and as such may form the basis for speedy and just measures that will insure his freedom which he so rightfully has earned.

May I Sir expect your answer to this most earnest entreaty; Thank you very kindly, and I remain as ever.

/s/ Mrs. Marie C. Dasch

LIJ/mvb/elh

AGKC-C 201 Dasch, George J.
(2 Jan 46)

4 January 1946

Mrs. Marie C. Dasch
Post Office Box #45
Perth Amboy, New Jersey

Dear Mrs. Dasch:

I refer to your recent letter addressed to Major General Thomas H. Green of The Judge Advocate General's Office concerning your husband, George J. Dasch.

The War Department does not contemplate taking any action toward the relief of your husband at this time.

Sincerely yours,

EDWARD F. WITSELL
Major General
Acting The Adjutant General

MEMO FOR RECORD:

The following was taken from the 201 file of George J. Dasch, which is in confidential file:

"Col. Rushton, Office Under Sec. War & The Adjutant General approve rec. of Col. Hughes as follows:

File these papers in Classified file without action, & take no further action toward clemency in this & the other similar cases."

EFW 2 Dec 43"

See copy of memo attached, JH-3 Jan 45



Persons convicted by court-martial or military commission of spying will not receive clemency consideration. Conference by Colonel Hendricks and General Greenbaum (Office of the Under Secretary of War) and Colonel Rushton, Director of Correction Division, AGO.

Per Colonel Rushton:

/s/ John Heater
John Heater
10 July 1945

Original in Clemency
Copy for Section Chiefs

SPJGE 17258

2nd Ind.

JMW-cr

War Department, ASF, J.A.G.O. 26 November 1943.

To: The Adjutant General.

This man is one of the eight who were tried by the Military Commission in the saboteur case. He is now under a thirty years' sentence approved by the President. The record of trial and all copies thereof have been sealed by personal direction of the President and may not be opened without his permission. In view of the circumstances surrounding this extraordinary case it is believed that no action should be taken at this time toward bringing the question of clemency to the attention of the President.

For The Judge Advocate General:

(Signed) John M. Weir
John M. Weir,
Brigadier General, U.S. Army,
Executive.

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY SERVICE FORCES
MEMO ROUTING SLIP

To the following in order indicated:

GPO 16-34250-2

	(Name or title)	(Organization)	(Building and room)	(Initials)	(Date)
1	TAG (Correction Division)				
2					
3					

1. Transmitted requesting such action and reply as may be deemed appropriate.

2. George J. Dasch is one of the "saboteurs" convicted and sentenced by military commission in Washington, D. C. in 1942. He is now confined in a United States Penitentiary. Although not a member of the Army the prisoner was sentenced by a military tribunal and may therefore be treated as a military prisoner under the clemency jurisdiction of the War Department.

Handwritten signature

From
Maj Gen Thomas H Green
The Judge Advocate General 2048 Munitions
(Name) (Organization) (Building and room)

12/29/45
(Date)
(Telephone)
2019

, 946/1139

JUN 28 1945

The Adjutant General's Office

1D-570 The Pentagon

Correction Division

Prisoner George John Dasch, Leavenworth, Kansas

Dasch, George John

10 June 1945

Military Justice Division, ^{Rm. 2713,} AGO, Washington 25, D. C., 77533

Transmitted herewith as a matter pertaining to your office is a letter, dated 10 June 1945, from Prisoner George John Dasch, 61536, in which he requests clemency. Basic communication has not been acknowledged.

FOR THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL:

1 Incl

Ltr to Gen. Cramer fr
Prisoner Dasch, 10 Jun 45

R. E. KUNKEL
Colonel, JAGD
Chief, Military Justice Division

JUN 28 '45 PM



Smith, J/aw-hbg

JUN 28 1945

The Adjutant General's Office

1D-570 The Pentagon

Correction Division

Prisoner George John Dasch, Leavenworth, Kansas

Dasch, George John

10 June 1945

Military Justice Division, ^{Rm. 2713,} AGO, Washington 25, D. C., 77533

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FOR THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL:

1 Incl

Ltr to Gen. Cramer fr
Prisoner Dasch, 10 Jun 45

R. E. Kunkel

R. E. KUNKEL
Colonel, JAGD
Chief, Military Justice Division

APR 16 1946

SPJGJ 1946/1139

X (2)

APR 16 1946

Mr. Harris N. Cookingham
P. O. Box 241
Laguna Beach, California

Dear Mr. Cookingham:

Your letter to the Secretary of War dated 22 January 1946 in the matter of George Dasch and Ernest Burger has been referred to this office for reply.

The voluminous record of trial in the case involving the persons mentioned has been reexamined and you may be assured that your comments and recommendations are being considered in connection with a study of the matter of granting clemency to these persons.

Sincerely yours,

sent

ALBERT E. JOHNSON
Colonel, JAGD
Chief, Military Justice Division

T
Ford, PH/cfs

ARMY SERVICE FORCES
TRANSMITTAL SHEET

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION (If any)

RSE/mkb

FILE NO. AGCB-C 095 Cooking- ham, Harris N. (22 Jan. 46)	SUBJECT Re Nazi Saboteurs.		
TO The Judge Advocate General 2728 Munitions Building	FROM Operations Branch 1D-853, Pentagon Ext. 2267	DATE 1 February 1946	COMMENT No. 1

As a matter of primary interest. Attached
letter has not been acknowledged.

FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL:

Forly Butler
Adjutant General

- 1 Incl.
Ltr 22 Jan. 46 frn Harris N. Cookingham,
P. O. Box 241, Laguna Beach, Calif. to the
Sec. of War, Wash. D. C. w/1 Incl. n/c.

USA War Crimes Office

5 FEB 1946

4 FEB 46 PM



A Wage and Price Preview by Fourteen Government Experts

How much do the best-informed government experts really expect wages to rise? Do they expect the cost of living to increase? If so, by how much?

To provide the most authoritative answers to these and related questions, the Washington Bureau of NEWSWEEK obtained the confidential estimates of fourteen of the government's principal economists. In seeking their cooperation, NEWSWEEK recognized that it was asking them to gauge political winds as well as economic factors. It asked of each economist only "his best judgment, at the moment, in the light of the various pressures and trends which are presently visible."

Here is the composite forecast of the fourteen economists:

▲ A rise in basic hourly wage rates of almost 13 per cent by June 30, 1946, and almost 18 per cent by June 30, 1947.
▲ A rise in living costs of slightly more than 4 per cent by June 30, 1946, and of more than 5 per cent by June 30, 1947.

The composite forecast is based on the following questions which were submitted to the experts, and a summary of the answers received from them:

Question No. 1: About how much, in percentage above the present level, do you think wholesale prices (Bureau of Labor Statistics index) will rise by June 30, 1946? By June 30, 1947?

	Lowest	Highest	Average
June 1946	0	12%	5.6%
June 1947	-10%**	20%	6.8%

Question No. 2: About how much, in percentage above present level, do you think the cost of living (BLS index of prices paid by low income families in large cities) will rise by June 30, 1946? By June 30, 1947?

	Lowest	Highest	Average
June 1946	0	10%	4.1%
June 1947	-10%**	15%	5.3%

*All of the participants were originally polled before the President's wage-price speech. After the speech a check was made. The thirteen who were reached did not desire to change their estimates. One participant was unavailable.

**Two economists forecast declines in wholesale prices and the cost of living by June 1947; one foresaw the possibility of either slight rises or slight declines.

Question No. 3: About how much of a general wage increase (in basic hourly wage rates) do your estimates suppose?

	Lowest	Highest	Average
June 1946	10%	20%	12.8%
June 1947	15%	30%	17.8%

Note: The two economists who predicted a decline in wholesale prices and the cost of living by mid-1947 also foresaw a 15 per cent wage increase. The economist who thought wages might jump as much as 30 per cent by June 1947, forecast a rise in the cost of living of only 5 per cent by that date. On the

Excessive profits	5.5
Tax maldistribution	2
Continued gov't deficits	1.5
General credit policies	0
Other causes	11

Here are some of the other factors:

Production: Two economists gave this first emphasis. One described it as the "removal of the excess of demand over supplies of goods that can be made available," explaining further that "various of the other factors contribute to this. No single one is of predominant importance but they add to an impressive total."

The other wrote, "time to get production really rolling," adding this forecast: "... Expect the [inflationary] pressure to be off by mid-1947, for by then expect production to be eating into the backlog of demand at a rapid rate ... Some prices will be declining in 1946, and a few will show rising tendencies after the spring of 1947."

Speculative activity in commodities, real estate, and securities: One participant rated this second.

These are some penciled side comments:

"In the immediate period OPA controls are required to hold prices" at near current levels.

"I can't guess if there are not controls ... (1) on prices generally, (2) on wages that necessitate price change, and (3) on rents."

"A 15 per cent wage increase can easily be absorbed without price increases. However, pressures on the OPA will result in the increases in prices and cost of living indicated. In 1947, prices will fall across the board."

"In the absence of a more clearly defined and coherent government program, it is impossible to forecast what will happen. Note the contrast between the 7-point anti-inflation program of 1942 and the present tendency to handle each issue independently. Under present procedures the political pressures of all groups are additive and there is no focal point around which to mobilize support for minimum controls. Hence I anticipate a weakening of controls that may be manifested first on a large scale in the wage field."

List of Economists Participating in Survey

- Louis H. Bean, Chief Fiscal Analyst, Bureau of the Budget.
- Willis J. Ballinger, Economic Adviser, Federal Trade Commission.
- Ben D. Dorfman, Chief Economist, U. S. Tariff Commission.
- Bertrand Fox, former (recently resigned) director, Bureau of Program and Statistics, War Production Board.
- Richard V. Gilbert, Economic Adviser, Office of Price Administration.
- E. A. Goldenweiser, Economic Adviser, Federal Reserve Board.
- A. F. Hinrichs, Acting Commissioner, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Labor Department.
- Isador Lubin, Commissioner (on leave), Bureau of Labor Statistics; Associate U. S. representative, Allied Reparations Commission.
- M. Joseph Meehan, Chief, Division of Research and Statistics, Commerce Department.
- Robert R. Nathan, Deputy Director for Reconversion, Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion.
- David Novick, Director, Industrial Statistics Division, Civilian Production Administration.
- Walter S. Salant, Economic Adviser, Office of the Stabilization Administrator.
- Oscar Stein, Director of Statistical and Historical Research, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Agriculture Department.
- Woodlief Thomas, Director, Division of Research and Statistics, Federal Reserve Board.

other hand, a fourth economist predicted a rise of 15 per cent both in wages and in the cost of living by June 1947.

Question No. 4: What "do you consider to be the most important (factors) in bringing about the increases" in the wholesale prices and the cost of living?

NEWSWEEK's questionnaire listed seven factors and asked the economists to add others if they desired. When an answer gave first importance to one of these points, it was given a score of three points; the second most important factor received two points and the third, one. Here is the result:

Wage-rate policy	23.5
Inadequate gov't controls	18
Public "liquid savings"	15.5

FAMOUS PARKER GAMES



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Dig letters from a pile with the magic pick (adhesive surfaced), and be first to form a winning word. Any number up to six can join the hilarious scramble! New editions of Dig are now in preparation.



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MONOPOLY—Most popular of the world's great standard games. Sets at \$2 and upwards.



MAKE-A-MILLION

A Sensational Card Game. The Object is to Capture Count Cards totalling a Million. Havoc is raised by the adroit use of the Exciting Bull and Bear cards. You will like it. Price 75 cents.

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WASHINGTON TIDES

Our Gropings on the Atom

by ERNEST K. LINDLEY

The Prime Ministers of Britain and Canada are arriving to discuss with President Truman what to do about the atomic bomb (see Foreign Affairs). This is an appropriate time to bring up to date a summary of American official thinking on the subject.

Perhaps the correct word would be "groping" instead of "thinking." Most officials, like most civilians, are feeling their way. Very few are sure enough of themselves to speak dogmatically. Nevertheless, certain trends of thought, and even certain tentative conclusions, are emerging. The following, in particular, deserve to be noted:

1—The time factor of safety. Whereas many scientists say another nation, working independently, could duplicate the atomic bomb in two to five years, many engineers and industrialists who worked on the American project say it would take longer: up to ten or fifteen years. Top scientists, such as Dr. Vannevar Bush and President James B. Conant, say from five to fifteen years. Some high ranking officials are using eight years as a working hypothesis.

These longer estimates fortify the instinct to keep the bomb as a United States-British-Canadian monopoly as long as possible. They comfort officials who admit that international controls will have to be devised, but would rather let their successors shoulder the responsibility for giving to others information which might lead to the destruction of the nation.

Other officials not only regard the eight-year estimate as very dubious but argue that delay in setting up effective controls will inevitably intensify international suspicions and lead to a disastrous race in armaments.

2—Maintaining our head start. A few officials contend that with our present head start, be it five years or eight, and continued intensive research and development—perhaps at the rate of \$1,000,000,000 a year—we can expect to maintain a safe advantage. The answer is that: (a) no defense against atomic warfare is in sight, and (b) superior atomic weapons will not do us much good if an enemy hits us first with inferior but still effective atomic weapons. This answer is overwhelmingly supported by scientific and technical opinion.

3—Outlawing the atomic bomb. When the President made this proposal it was assumed that he was thinking of a simple agreement not to use atomic weapons, comparable to the international convention prohibiting the use of poisonous gas. But it is generally conceded that the



aggressors in the second world war would have used gas if they had thought it would be decisive and if they had not feared retaliation. As Dr. Conant warned last week, atomic energy is a different order of weapon. It is so destructive that it might be used with instantly decisive effect and so without fear of serious retaliation.

In the bare form in which he set it forth, the President's proposal was so palpably inadequate that persons close to the White House have been explaining that he meant, of course, "effective" outlawing of the atomic bomb—an agreement which would be implemented.

4—International supervision. No one has yet suggested an "effective" way of outlawing atomic weapons which would not require an international inspection force free to go anywhere in any nation at any time. The scientists say that it is technically feasible to detect and prevent research and manufacture of atomic weapons without restricting research and development of atomic energy for peaceful purposes.

Informal discussions in the Administration and Congress show a steady trend toward the conclusion that eventually an international inspection force must be set up. From this necessarily follows the conclusion that any nation which refuses to submit to inspection must be treated as an aggressor.

Some officials ask: "Suppose Russia won't agree to international inspection—or agrees to it now and later withdraws? Would the United States be willing to go to war against Russia?"

The only answer they get is: "Let's see first if Russia won't agree."

These, briefly, are the major trends of thought on the atomic bomb in Washington as Messrs. Truman, Acler and King forgoth to see if the ingenuity of the politicians can catch up with the ingenuity of the scientists.

ADDRESS REPLY TO
"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL"
AND REFER TO
INITIALS AND NUMBER

9786
3
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

TLC:NTE:lr

146-7-4219

January 31, 1946

Carner

The Honorable
The Secretary of War
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Attention: Judge Advocate General

There is transmitted herewith a copy of a letter dated January 22, 1946, from Mr. Harris N. Cookingham and a copy of our reply dated January 31, 1946. You will note that Mr. Cookingham's letter pertains to the cases of George Dasch and Ernest Burger, who were convicted by a military tribunal.

Respectfully,

For the Attorney General

Theron L. Caudle

THERON L. CAUDLE,
Assistant Attorney General

Encl. No. 95844



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WAR DEPARTMENT
J.A.G.O.

TLC:NTE:lr

146-7-4219

January 31, 1946

The Honorable
The Secretary of War
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Attention: Judge Advocate General

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Respectfully,

For the Attorney General

THERON L. CAUDLE,
Assistant Attorney General

Encl. No. 95844

INCLOSURE

Nº 95844

FROM

Department of Justice

7-840

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

C
O
P
Y

P. O. Box 241,
Laguna Beach,
California,

January 22, 1946.

The Honorable

The Attorney General of the United States,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to submit herewith for your perusal and kind consideration an article, clipped from "Newsweek" of November 12, 1945, entitled "From the Capital: The Untold Story of the Nazi Saboteurs", and setting forth the circumstances surrounding the imprisonment of George Dasch and Ernest Burger.

If the "Newsweek" statement of these cases is a statement of fact, as I assume it to be because of "Newsweek" general reliability and high average of accuracy in reporting, I can deduce from the article only that a tragic injustice has been done these young men, whose professed and proven intentions were to cooperate with the United States against Nazi enemies and who actually supplied our Government with useful, even vital, information that thwarted the activities in the United States of a group of trained saboteurs. It would seem more logical, indeed, to have rewarded them for their valuable cooperation than to have imprisoned them.

From the enclosed "Newsweek" article I learn that you are entirely familiar with the cases of both Dasch and Burger; that it is you, in fact, to whom the American public owes thanks for the publicity given by "Newsweek" to records of the testimony at the court proceedings in these cases. If, after consideration of the "Newsweek" article, you find in it

- 2 -

any basis on which I, a private citizen (and lover of justice for all, as I am confident many other decent Americans must be!), can take such civilian steps as may lead to assured justice for Dasch and Burger, I should greatly appreciate your courtesy in so advising me, and thank you in advance for your kindness in doing so.

Respectfully yours,

/s/ Harris N. Cookingham.

Enclosures:

"Newsweek" article,
as above (2 pages).

TLC:WTE:lr

146-7-4219

January 31, 1946

Mr. Harris M. Cookingham
P. O. Box 241
Laguna Beach, California

Dear Mr. Cookingham:

This will acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated January 22, 1946, relative to the cases of George Dasch and Ernest Burger.

Since Dasch and Burger were convicted by a military tribunal, your letter is being forwarded to the War Department.

Respectfully,

For the Attorney General

THERON L. CAUDLE,
Assistant Attorney General

APR 16 1946

SPJGJ 1946/1139

X(1)

APR 16 1946

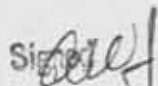
Mr. Charles F. Gritzner
Ataliegua on Hess Lake
Newaygo, Michigan

Dear Mr. Gritzner:

Your letter addressed to the War Department dated 16 March 1946 with reference to the case of George John Dasch and Ernest Peter Burger has been referred to this office for reply.

The voluminous record of trial in the case of the persons mentioned has now been reexamined and you may be assured that your comments and recommendations are being considered in connection with a study of the matter of granting clemency to these persons.

Sincerely yours,

Signed 

ALBERT W. JOHNSON
Colonel, JAGD
Chief, Military Justice Division

RECEIVED
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APR 16 1946


Ford, PH/cfs

1019' BH/cja

16 APR 46 PM



DISPATCHED
THE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF, BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D.C.
MAY 16 1946

STANDARD TIME

Letter of Transmittal enclosed to press release.

Recommendations are being considered in connection with a report of the

the now been transmitted and for any be wanted and for comment and

the administrative record of this in the case of the persons mentioned

has been referred to this office for reply.

With reference to the case of George John Bush and Edward Peter Bush.

For letter addressed to the Department dated to March 1946

Dear Mr. Director:

Enclosed for your information
are copies of press release
and copies of original

16 APR 46

25101 1946/1139

25101 1946

ARMY SERVICE FORCES
TRANSMITTAL SHEET

LV

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION (if any)

FILE NO. AGKC-C 253 (16 Mar 46)	SUBJECT Clemency
TO The Judge Advocate General Military Justice Division Room 2D453 Pentagon Building	FROM Correction Division Clemency Branch Room 2B332 Telephone 74734
	DATE 26 March 1946
	COMMENT No. 1

For consideration and direct reply to writer, who has not been advised of this reference.

FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL:

R. J. Jones
Adjutant General

1 Incl
Ltr (16 Mar 46) from
Mr. Gritzner w/Incl



TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, NEW YORK
SUBJECT: [illegible]

URGENT

RE: [illegible]

REFERENCE:

See correspondence and report of [illegible] dated [illegible]

RE: [illegible]
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RE: [illegible]
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RE: [illegible]

END-1

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LV

AGKO-C 253
(16 Mar 46)

Clemency

The Judge Advocate General
Military Justice Division
Room 2D453
Pentagon Building

Correction Division
Clemency Branch
Room 2B332
Telephone 74734

26 March 1946

For consideration and direct reply to writer, who has not been advised of this reference.

FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL:

Adjutant General

1 Incl
Ltr (16 Mar 46) from
Mr. Gritaner w/Incl



1. [illegible]
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7. [illegible]

8. [illegible]

9. [illegible]

10. [illegible]

(10 MAR 1968)

[illegible]

HAB:dgo

March 8, 1946

Mr. Charles F. Gritzner
Ataliqua on Hess Lake
Newaygo, Michigan

Dear Mr. Gritzner:

In response to the inquiry contained in your letter of March 1, 1946, addressed to the Attorney General, you are advised that George John Dasch and Ernest Peter Burger were convicted by a military court martial, and consequently, they are under the jurisdiction of the War Department. It is suggested that you address your inquiry to that Department.

Sincerely yours,

James P. McGranery
The Assistant to the Attorney General

SPJGJ 1946/1139

APR 16 1946

Mrs. Marie C. Dasch
P. O. Box 45
Perth Amboy, New Jersey

Dear Mrs. Dasch:

Your letters to The Adjutant General dated 24 January 1946 and 20 March 1946 have been received and carefully considered in connection with the record of trial in the case of your husband, George John Dasch.

You may be assured that the matter of clemency in your husband's case has been carefully considered in the War Department. You will be notified when a final decision is reached.

Sincerely yours,

Signed *AWJ*

ALBERT W. JOHNSON
Colonel, JAGD
Chief, Military Justice Division

TOM
Ford, PH/cfs



A circular clock-style stamp. The outer ring contains the date and time '16 APR 1968'. The inner circle has numbers 1 through 12. A small clock face is in the center, and the word 'DISPATCHED' is printed across the bottom.

2:50pm

UNCLASSIFIED WHEN & HOW DESIGNATION IS LIFTED

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WAR DEPARTMENT
ARMY SERVICE FORCES

¹⁶
S-2 March 1946
TRANSMITTAL SHEET
LIJ/rsmb 14 Feb 1946

TO	Military Justice Division, Room 10460 Temporary C Building (Service, division, or organization) (Location)		
	Col. Kunkel (Branch or unit) (Attention)		
DESCRIPTION OF ATTACHED COMMUNICATION	Mrs. Marie C. Dasch	The Adjutant General	24 Jan. 1946 (Date)
	Clemency	AGKC-C 201 Dasch, George J. (24 Jan 1946)	
FROM	Correction Division AGO	2B322, Pentagon	74734 (File No.)
	(Service, division, or organization) (Location) (Telephone)		

Request information on which to base a reply, with particular reference to the letter of 10 June 1942 to which Mrs. Dasch refers.

FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

John B. Todd
Adjutant General

5 inclosures

- 1-letter from Mrs. Dasch, Jan. 24, 1946 (original)
- 2-copy Memo Routing Slip from JAG to TAG 29 Dec 1945
- 3-copy letter from Mrs. Dasch, Dec 1945
- 4-copy letter from TAG to Mrs. Dasch, 4 Jan 1946
- 5-copy letter from John Heater 10 July 1945



S-2 March 1946

LIJ/rsmb 14 Feb 1946

Military Justice Division, Room 10460 Temporary C Building

Col. Kunkel

Mrs. Marie C. Dasch The Adjutant General 24 Jan. 1946

Clemency AGKC-C 201 Dasch, George J. (24 Jan 1946)

Correction Division AGO 2B322, Pentagon 74734

Request information on which to base a reply, with particular reference to the letter of 10 June 1942 to which Mrs. Dasch refers.

FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

Adjutant General

5 inclosures

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- 4-copy letter from TAG to Mrs. Dasch, 4 Jan 1946
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HEADQUARTERS ARMY SERVICE FORCES

MEMO ROUTING SLIP

To:
TAG (Correction Division)

1. Transmitted requesting such action and reply as may be deemed appropriate.

2. George J. Dasch is one of the "saboteurs" convicted and sentenced by military commission in Washington, D. C. in 1942. He is now confined in a United States Penitentiary. Although not a member of the Army the prisoner was sentenced by a military tribunal and may therefore be treated as a military prisoner under the clemency jurisdiction of the War Department.

/s/ Hubert W. Hoover, Col.
for

Maj. Gen. Thomas H. Green
The Judge Advocate General 2048 Munitions

12/29/45
Tel. 2019

C O P Y

Dec. 1945
Post Office Box # 45
Perth Amboy, New Jersey

Major Gen. Thomas H. Green
Judge Advocate Gen.
U. S. War Dept.
Washington, D. C.

My Dear Sir:

In view of the disclosures on the evils of Nazism before the Allied Tribunal at Nuerberg and in result to the inquiry as respectfully requested by my husband Mr. George J. Dasch in his letter of June 10, 1942, which I hope was undertaken, I pray, that the words and deeds of my husband in his successful fight against that evil are now better understood and their basic motive and true aim fully recognized and as such may form the basis for speedy and just measures that will insure his freedom which he so rightfully has earned. May I Sir expect your answer to this most earnest entreaty? Thank you Sir very kindly.

I remain as ever,

Mrs. Marie C. Dasch

C O P Y

12-3

AGKC-C 201 Dasch, George J.
(2 Jan 46)

LIJ/mvb/elh

4 January 1946

Mrs. Marie C. Dasch
Post Office Box # 45
Perth Amboy, New Jersey

Dear Mrs. Dasch:

I refer to your recent letter addressed to Major General Thomas H. Green of the Judge Advocate General's Office concerning your husband, George J. Dasch.

The War Department does not contemplate taking any action toward the relief of your husband at this time.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Edward F. Witsell
EDWARD F. WITSELL
Major General
Acting The Adjutant General

MEMO FOR RECORD:

The following was taken from the 201 file of George J. Dasch, which is in confidential file:

"Col. Rushton, Office Under Sec. War & The Adjutant General approve rec. of Col. Hughes as follows:

File these papers in Classified file without action, & take no further action toward clemency in this & the other similar cases."

EFW 2 Dec 43"

See copy of memo attached, JH-3 Jan. 45

C O P Y

Inc 4

Persons convicted by court-martial or military commission of spying will not receive clemency considerations. Conference by Colonel Hendricks and General Greenbaum (Office of the Under Secretary of War) and Colonel Rushton, Director of Correction Division, AGO.

Per Colonel Rushton:

/s/ John Heater
John Heater
10 July 1945

Original in Clemency
Copy for Section Chiefs

C O P Y

Incl 5-

ARMY SERVICE FORCES
TRANSMITTAL SHEET

LV

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION (If any)

FILE NO. AGKC-C 201 Dasch, George J. (21 Mar 46)	SUBJECT Clemency		
TO The Judge Advocate General Military Justice Division Room 2D453 Pentagon Building	FROM Clemency Branch Correction Division Room 2B332 Telephone 74734	DATE 26 March 1946	COMMENT No. 1

For consideration and direct reply to writer, who has not been advised of this reference.

FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL:

Rufona
Adjutant General

✓ 1 Incl
Ltr fm Mrs. Dasch



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MAR 26 1948

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MAR 26 1948

LV

AGKC-C 201
Dasch, George J. (21 Mar 46)

The Judge Advocate General
Military Justice Division
Room 2D453
Pentagon Building

Clemency

Clemency Branch
Correction Division
Room 2B332
Telephone 74734

26 March 1946

For consideration and direct reply to writer, who has not been advised of this reference.

FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL:

Adjutant General

1 Incl
Ltr fm Mrs. Dasch



FOR THE
1 DAY

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APR 19 1946

SPJGJ 1946/1139

APR 19 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNDER SECRETARY OF WAR. ATTENTION: Colonel Conrad E. Snow, GSC

SUBJECT: George John Dasch

Reference is made to your memorandum of 10 April 1946 in regard to the above-named prisoner. The record of trial in this case is now being re-examined in connection with a study of the matter of granting clemency. Liaison has been established with the Department of Justice and a decision in the matter is expected shortly. You will be advised when a final decision is reached.

FOR THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL:

Signed

WM. J. HUGHES, JR.
Colonel, JAGD

[Handwritten signature]
Folrd, PH/cfs



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2:15pm

AMERICAN TRUST CORPORATION 78 LONGWELL ST.

SUBJECT: GEOL. 70PH 2325

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more and more

Pat -

Here is something new on
March - The Col. hasn't seen it
yet - He said he would speak
to Gen. Washington and at Justice
this morning

rps.

Will you please let me have
the Capehart + Willis + 150 gr
letters - if you have them

12 Apr - Ltr read. No new facts presented by Dasch
except that he claims to have been promised
a pardon by Atty Gen representatives. Perhaps
reply to Atty Gen should call for affirmative or
negative statement on this pardon promise claim - ~~PH~~

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

10 April 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR Colonel Hubert Hoover
Judge Advocate General's Office
2E 486 The Pentagon

Subject: George John Dasch

I recall your interest in this case through a previous letter written to you in the subject prisoner's behalf.

As far as I know, the Department has never committed itself to a review of this case. Correction Branch tells me that your office has the full materials.

I would appreciate your advice in the matter toward reply to the Attorney General.

Conrad E. Snow
CONRAD E. SNOW
Colonel, G.S.C.

APR 11 46 AM



RECEIVED
WAR DEPARTMENT
J.A.G.O.

10 April 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR Colonel Hubert Hoover
Judge Advocate General's Office
2E 486 The Pentagon

Subject: George John Dasch

I recall your interest in this case through a previous letter written to you in the subject prisoner's behalf.

As far as I know, the Department has never committed itself to a review of this case. Correction Branch tells me that your office has the full materials.

I would appreciate your advice in the matter toward reply to the Attorney General.

CONRAD E. SNOW
Colonel, G.S.C.

DO NOT DETACH THIS SLIP

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Date 4/6/46, 194

To ☒ Under Sec. of War Judge Advocate General
..... Asst. Sec. of War Ordnance, Chief of
..... Asst. Sec. of War (Air) Panama Canal
..... Adjutant General Personnel, Director of
..... Army Air Forces Provost Marshal General
..... Army Service Forces, Public Relations
..... Hdqrs.
..... Deputy Admin. Asst. Q. M. General
..... C. & R. Div. Signal Corps.
..... Engineers, Chief of Staff, Chief of
..... Fiscal Director Surgeon General

For ☒ Necessary action.
..... Direct reply.
..... Necessary action and preparation of reply for signature of Secretary of War.
..... Necessary action and preparation of reply for signature of Administrative Assistant.
..... Remarks and recommendation.
..... Memorandum for Sec. of War or Administrative Asst.
..... Investigation and report.
..... Notation and filing.
..... Noted by Sec. of War or Administrative Asst. and returned for filing.
..... Previous papers.
..... Mark "Personal attention of Administrative Asst."
..... Correction.
..... Remarks:

By direction of the Secretary of War:

JOHN W. MARTYN,
Administrative Assistant.

Form No. 2

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16-12643-4

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COORDINATION & RECORD
DIVISION

1946 APR 6 PM 1:47

OFFICE SECRETARY WAR

DISPATCHED
COORDINATION & RECORD
DIVISION

1946 APR 6 13 56

OFF SEC WAR

ADDRESS REPLY TO
"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL"
AND REFER TO
INITIALS AND NUMBER

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WAR DEPARTMENT
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

WASHINGTON, D. C.

April 2, 1946 1946 APR 6 AM 9:36

TLC:JJM:vng

146-7-4219-1

The Honorable,
The Secretary of War,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

There is enclosed herewith for appropriate attention
a letter received from George John Dasch dated March 5, 1946.

You will recall that Dasch was one of the eight German
saboteurs apprehended in June 1942, and subsequently convicted
by a military commission. We are informed that your Department
is presently reviewing this case with the view of a possible
recommendation for clemency.

It would be appreciated very much if you would advise
us when a decision is reached in this matter.

Respectfully,

For the Attorney General,

Theron L. Caudle

THERON L. CAUDLE,
Assistant Attorney General.

✓
/Enc.#93691.✓



65W-095 Dasch, George John 4-2-46
7/11/00-5 Schlichting (2 April 1946)

9 APR '46 AM

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
MAIL AND RECORDS
Recorded in M & R



~~SECRET~~
 Agent, Henry J. Kaiser.

Leonard Lyons
 Last week a visitor asked Winston Churchill: "How do you think President Truman liked your Fulton, Mo., speech?" Churchill replied: "Well, I saw the movies, and he seemed to be enjoying it" . . . Although no announcement was made, the tours of the FBI offices in Washington, discontinued when the war began, have been resumed . . . The FBI, incidentally, was the only Washington bureau which didn't require identification passes for visitors during the war . . . The Army's Judge Advocate-General now holds the fate of Dash and Burger, the Nazi submarine spies now in Atlanta. Promises were made that they'd be sent home to Germany.

Wash Post - Apr 25
 Tom Benton is sitting around doctors insist that temporarily he

SPJGJ 1946/1139

MAY 13 1946

Mr. Harris N. Cookingham
c/o Fitch C. Bryant, Esq.
290 Riverside Drive
New York 25, New York

Dear Mr. Cookingham:

Your letter dated 26 April 1946 to General Dwight D. Eisenhower has been referred to this office for reply.

As stated to you in the previous letter of this office dated 16 April 1946, the cases of George John Dasch and Ernest Peter Burger are now under consideration for clemency and you may rest assured that your comments will be considered in the determination of this matter.

Sincerely yours,

signed,

all

ALBERT W. JOHNSON
Colonel, JAGD
Chief, Military Justice Division

Copies furnished to:

1. "Copy to ACofS, G-2 as per Disposition Form, 1 May 46, his file No. MID 905"
2. "Copy to Office Cof S, as per Disposition Slip, 27 Apr 46, its file reference WDCA-095 Cookingham Harris N. (26 Apr 46)."

RECEIVED
MAY 14 1946



all
Ford, PH-cfs:lmo

DISPATCHED
OUR DEPARTMENT
400

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

ကမ္ဘာပေါ်

—r/celajā laikā?

1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be answered. This involves understanding the context and the specific information required.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 08-11-2010 BY 60322 UCBAW

[illegible]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

• "I don't want to be a doctor" •

JAN 1960

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11-4-2008 17:20

SPJGJ 1946/1139

MAY 13 1946

Mr. Charles F. Gritzner
Atalieuqua on Hess Lake
Newaygo, Michigan

Dear Mr. Gritzner:

Your letter dated 17 April 1946 to the President has been referred to this office for reply.

As stated to you in the previous letter of this office dated 16 April 1946, the cases of George John Dasch and Ernest Peter Burger are now under consideration for clemency and you may rest assured that your comments will be considered in the determination of this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Signature *awj*

ALBERT W. JOHNSON
Colonel, JAGD
Chief, Military Justice Division



Signature
Ford, PH/cfs

101q' 11/13

13 MAY 76 AM



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Attorney General

Reference is made to the letterhead memorandum dated May 11, 1976, captioned as above, and to the letterhead memorandum dated May 12, 1976, captioned as above, both of which are being furnished to you for your information. The letterhead memorandum dated May 11, 1976, is being furnished to you for your information. The letterhead memorandum dated May 12, 1976, is being furnished to you for your information.

Very truly yours,

Richard A. Civiletti
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice

cc: 101q' 11/13

13 MAY 76

219
1139

ARMY SERVICE FORCES

TRANSMITTAL SHEET

MCE/dad

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION (If any)

FILE NO. AGAO-C 095 Gritzner
Charles F. (17 Apr 46)

SUBJECT Concerning the pardon of George John Dasch and Ernest Peter Burger, who were court-martialed.

TO	FROM	DATE	COMMENT No. 1
The Judge Advocate General Attn: Military Justice Division Room 2057 Temp. C Building	Operations Br., AGO Room 1E 862 Extension 3165 Pentagon	Major Molloy-2063 26 April 1946	

As a matter of primary interest.

FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL:


Adjutant General

1 Inclosure
Ltr fr Mr. Gritzner dtd
17 Apr 46 w/1 Incl.



APR 29 46 AM



RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT
J. A. G. O.

13 MAY 46 AM



RECEIVED

149
Ataliegua on Hess Lake

Newaygo, Michigan.

March 16th. 1946

The War Department

Washington, D.C.

Dear Sirs:

Dasch, George John
and
Burger, Ernest Peter

It is evident from the report of Attorney General Tom C. Clark that George John Dasch and Ernest Peter Burger did a great service to this country at the risk of their lives. A service for which they were imprisoned by a military court martial.

The writer is anxious to learn from you that something definite is being done to obtain an immediate release of these men as a definite proof of the workings of justice in a democracy.

Very truly yours,

Charles F. Gritzner
Charles F. Gritzner.

/ Enclosure; Copy of letter from the Assistant to the Attorney General.



SPJGJ 1946/1139

APR 16 1946

Mr. Charles F. Gritzner
Ataliegua on Hess Lake
Newaygo, Michigan

Dear Mr. Gritzner:

Your letter addressed to the War Department dated 16 March 1946 with reference to the case of George John Dasch and Ernest Peter Burger has been referred to this office for reply.

The voluminous record of trial in the case of the persons mentioned has now been reexamined and you may be assured that your comments and recommendations are being considered in connection with a study of the matter of granting clemency to these persons.

Sincerely yours,

Signed

ALBERT W. JOHNSON
Colonel, JAGD
Chief, Military Justice Division

WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF
DISPOSITION FORM

CLASSIFICATION (if any)

FILE NO.
MID 905

SUBJECT Letter of Harris W. Cookingham to Chief of Staff,
26 April 1946

TO The Adjutant General
ATTN: Captain A. A. Parish,
Correction Branch, Civilian
Correspondence Sub-section,
Room 2 C 317, The Pentagon

FROM A. C. of S., G-2 DATE 1 May 46 COMMENT NO. 1
Major Lennon/edf/4753

1. Letter of Harris W. Cookingham to Chief of Staff, 26 April 1946, forwarded as
a matter of primary interest.

2. It is requested that a copy of reply to subject letter be furnished this
office.

FOR THE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF, G-2:

1 Incl:
Ltr as above

F. E. Cookson

F. E. COOKSON
Colonel, GSC
Executive for Personnel and Administration

TO: The Judge Advocate General,
Chief Military Justice Division
Room 2C452, The Pentagon
(Attention: Captain Mullery)

From: Correction Branch 2 May 1946
Civilian Correspondence,
Sub. Section

Comment No. 2
Major Schonberger
74734-MAH/elh

Transmitted for your consideration as per telephone conversation
2 May 1946.

FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL:

A. A. Parish
Adjutant General



MID 905

The Adjutant General
ATTN: Captain A. A. Parish,
Correction Branch, Civilian
Correspondence Sub-section,
Room 2 C 317, The Pentagon

Letter of Harris N. Cookingham to Chief of Staff,
26 April 1946

A. C. of S., G-2

1 May 46
Major Lennon/edf/4753

1

1. Letter of Harris N. Cookingham to Chief of Staff, 26 April 1946, forwarded as a matter of primary interest.

2. It is requested that a copy of reply to subject letter be furnished this office.

FOR THE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF, G-2:

1 Incl:
Ltr as above

F. R. COOKSON
Colonel, GSC
Executive for Personnel and Administration

TO: The Judge Advocate General,
Chief Military Justice Division
Room 2C452, The Pentagon
(Attention: Captain Mullery)

From: Correction Branch
Civilian Correspondence,
Sub. Section

2 May 1946
Comment No. 2
Major Schonberger
74734-MAH/elh

Transmitted for your consideration as per telephone conversation
2 May 1946.

FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL:

Adjutant General



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WAR DEPARTMENT

OFFICE, SECRETAR. GENERAL STAFF

DISPOSITION SLIP

WDCSA-095 Cookingham, 4/27
File No. Harris N. (26 Apr 46) Date

TO:		
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		AGF
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		TAG
		BPR

FOR:

- Concurrence or recommendation
- Direct reply
- Information on which to base reply
- Necessary action
- Note and forward
- Note and return
- Preparation of reply
- Preparation of study
- Signature
- Your information
- File

Attention {notation} direction of Sec. War
Info copy of reply to
Office

By Direction of DCofS:

PAUL T. CARROLL
Col., General Staff Corps
Assistant Secretary, General Staff

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF THE
ATTORNEY GENERAL

APR 30 '46 PM



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ATTORNEY GENERAL

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ATTORNEY GENERAL

From the Capital: The Untold Story of the Nazi Saboteurs



International

Landed by U-boat, "saboteurs" Dasch...

On June 13, 1942, four German saboteurs—George John Dasch, Ernest Peter Burger, Richard Quirin, and Heinrich H. Heinck—landed from a submarine on the tip of Long Island, New York. Four days later, another quartet—Herbert H. Haupt, Edward J. Kerling, Hermann O. Neubauer, and Werner Thiel—came ashore in Florida. In less than a fortnight all were in custody. On Aug. 8, six of the spies were executed in Washington and two had gone to prison in Atlanta.

The trial of the German invaders was secret. But Attorney General Tom Clark has authorized that all hitherto suppressed testimony of both witnesses and defendants be made public. The documents disclosed that two of the saboteurs, Dasch and Burger, betrayed the other six, exposed the whole plot to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and thus saved their own lives. Both men, though German born, had once worked in the United States, Dasch as a waiter, Burger as a machinist.

John U. Terrell of NEWSWEEK's Washington bureau tells for the first time the complete story of why Germany's major sabotage effort in this country failed.

The Case of George Dasch

On the evening of May 28, 1942, Dasch, Burger, Quirin, and Heinck sailed in a German submarine from Lorient, France. Dasch, the leader of the group, had taken a secret vow to defeat their mission and so to help eliminate Hitler. Burger, too, was bitter against the Nazis and especially the Gestapo. The two men

were aware of each other's sentiments.

En route to the United States, Dasch carefully studied the equipment of the U-boat with the intention of revealing its secrets to the FBI.

In the morning darkness of Saturday, June 13, off Long Island, the four men paddled ashore from the submarine in a rubber boat. They were approached by a Coast Guardsman, who demanded of Dasch: "What are you doing here? What's up here?"

Submarine seamen were waiting to take the rubber boat back to the U-boat. Dasch remembered his instructions to overpower any witness and turn him over to the seamen. But he had no desire to kill the Coast Guardsman and ordered the seamen to leave. He told the Coast Guardsman: "You have undoubtedly given your oath to do your duty, and I am telling you by taking this money which I am offering you, you are doing nothing else but your duty. You will hear from me in Washington... What is your name, boy?"

Dasch testified the Coast Guardsman replied: "Frank Collins, sir." (The Coast Guardsman's name was John C. Cullen. Under the strain and excitement of the moment Dasch might have misunderstood the name.)

Dasch said he gave "Collins" \$300 and told the Coast Guardsman to take a good look at him in order to be able to recognize him again. This statement was corroborated by Cullen.

Thus, a few minutes after landing Dasch began to lay the groundwork for revealing the whole plot and proving his intention to surrender.

The Frank Offer: The four spies split up in Jamaica. Dasch and Burger took a room in the Governor Clinton Hotel in New York. In their room that night and next morning, Sunday, Dasch and Burger frankly discussed their predicament and disclosed to each other that each came to the United States to work against the Nazis.

Sunday evening Dasch and Burger met Quirin and Heinck, who were staying at the Hotel Martinique. Dasch told them he would have to leave town for a few days to make some contacts. Burger knew Dasch was going to Washington to give himself up to J. Edgar Hoover.

That same night, with Burger listening, Dasch telephoned the FBI office in New York. He talked with Special Agent Dean F. McWhortor and, as McWhortor later was to testify, gave the name of Frank Daniel Pastorious. This was the code name for Dasch's group of saboteurs. Dasch told McWhortor he was a German citizen who had arrived the preceding day and had information for Washington. He gave his physical description, asked that a record be made of the call, declined an invitation to come to the FBI office, but asked Mc-

Whortor to notify Washington Pastorious would go there to talk with Hoover.

On Thursday, Dasch took a 2:30 p.m. train to the capital.

Friday morning Dasch telephoned the Government Information Service and asked whom he should contact to disclose military information. He was referred to the Adjutant General's office and the FBI. Dasch telephoned the Army and was given the office of Col. H. P. Kramer. Kramer was not in, but Dasch left word with Kramer's secretary for the colonel to call him in Room 351, Hotel Mayflower. An hour later Kramer phoned. Dasch answered and gave his true name, stating he had landed with a group of German spies and wished to give information. Dasch also told Kramer he had telephoned the FBI.

This was true. Finding Kramer out, Dasch had telephoned FBI headquarters and had spoken with Special Agent Duane L. Traynor, who said he would send agents to pick up Dasch immediately.

For the next five days Dasch was questioned by agents. He revealed the whereabouts of Burger, Heinck, and Quirin, gave detailed information about the submarine, disclosed plans for sabotage in the Panama Canal Zone, told about the Florida landing party, and gave other information the FBI desired.

Thus, six days after the saboteurs had landed on Long Island, the FBI knew the whole plot—thanks to Dasch.

The Promised Reward: On June 27, Special Agents Traynor, Donegan, Johnstone, and Wills made Dasch a



U. S. Signal Corps from European

... and Burger revealed all to the FBI

A Wage and Price Preview by Fourteen Government Experts

How much do the best-informed government experts really expect wages to rise? Do they expect the cost of living to increase? If so, by how much?

To provide the most authoritative answers to these and related questions, the Washington Bureau of **NEWSWEEK** obtained the confidential estimates of fourteen of the government's principal economists. In seeking their cooperation, **NEWSWEEK** recognized that it was asking them to gauge political winds as well as economic factors. It asked of each economist only "his best judgment, at the moment, in the light of the various pressures and trends which are presently visible."

Here is the composite forecast of the fourteen economists:

☛ A rise in basic hourly wage rates of almost 13 per cent by June 30, 1946, and almost 18 per cent by June 30, 1947.

☛ A rise in living costs of slightly more than 4 per cent by June 30, 1946, and of more than 5 per cent by June 30, 1947.

The composite forecast is based on the following questions which were submitted to the experts, and a summary of the answers received from them:

Question No. 1: About how much, in percentage above the present level, do you think wholesale prices (Bureau of Labor Statistics index) will rise by June 30, 1946? By June 30, 1947?

	Lowest	Highest	Average
June 1946	0	12%	5.6%
June 1947	-10%**	20%	6.8%

Question No. 2: About how much, in percentage above present level, do you think the cost of living (BLS index of prices paid by low income families in large cities) will rise by June 30, 1946? By June 30, 1947?

	Lowest	Highest	Average
June 1946	0	10%	4.1%
June 1947	-10%**	15%	5.3%

*All of the participants were originally polled before the President's wage-price speech. After the speech a recheck was made. The thirteen who were reached did not desire to change their estimates. One participant was unavailable.

**Two economists forecast declines in wholesale prices and the cost of living by June 1947; one foresaw the possibility of either slight rises or slight declines.

Question No. 3: About how much of a general wage increase (in basic hourly wage rates) do your estimates suppose?

	Lowest	Highest	Average
June 1946	10%	20%	12.8%
June 1947	15%	30%	17.8%

Note: The two economists who predicted a decline in wholesale prices and the cost of living by mid-1947 also foresaw a 15 per cent wage increase. The economist who thought wages might jump as much as 30 per cent by June 1947, forecast a rise in the cost of living of only 5 per cent by that date. On the

Excessive profits	5.5
Tax maldistribution	2
Continued gov't deficits	1.5
General credit policies	0
Other causes	11

Here are some of the other factors:

Production: Two economists gave this first emphasis. One described it as the "removal of the excess of demand over supplies of goods that can be made available," explaining further that "various of the other factors contribute to this. No single one is of predominant importance but they add to an impressive total."

The other wrote, "time to get production really rolling," adding this forecast: "... Expect the [inflationary] pressure to be off by mid-1947, for by then expect production to be eating into the backlog of demand at a rapid rate... Some prices will be declining in 1946, and a few will show rising tendencies after the spring of 1947."

Speculative activity in commodities, real estate, and securities: One participant rated this second.

These are some penciled side comments:

"In the immediate period OPA controls are required to hold prices" at near current levels.

"I can't guess if there are not controls... (1) on prices generally, (2) on wages that necessitate price change, and (3) on rents."

"A 15 per cent wage increase can easily be absorbed without price increases. However, pressures on the OPA will result in the increases in prices and cost of living indicated. In 1947, prices will fall across the board."

"In the absence of a more clearly defined and coherent government program, it is impossible to forecast what will happen. Note the contrast between the 7-point anti-inflation program of 1942 and the present tendency to handle each issue independently. Under present procedures the political pressures of all groups are additive and there is no focal point around which to mobilize support for minimum controls. Hence I anticipate a weakening of controls that may be manifested first on a large scale in the wage field."

List of Economists Participating in Survey

- Louis H. Bean, Chief Fiscal Analyst, Bureau of the Budget.
- Willis J. Ballinger, Economic Adviser, Federal Trade Commission.
- Ben D. Dorfman, Chief Economist, U. S. Tariff Commission.
- Bertrand Fox, former (recently resigned) director, Bureau of Program and Statistics, War Production Board.
- Richard V. Gilbert, Economic Adviser, Office of Price Administration.
- E. A. Goldenweiser, Economic Adviser, Federal Reserve Board.
- A. F. Hinrichs, Acting Commissioner, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Labor Department.
- Isador Lubin, Commissioner (on leave), Bureau of Labor Statistics; Associate U. S. representative, Allied Reparations Commission.
- M. Joseph Meehan, Chief, Division of Research and Statistics, Commerce Department.
- Robert R. Nathan, Deputy Director for Reconversion, Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion.
- David Novick, Director, Industrial Statistics Division, Civilian Production Administration.
- Walter S. Salant, Economic Adviser, Office of the Stabilization Administrator.
- Oscar Stein, Director of Statistical and Historical Research, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Agriculture Department.
- Woodlief Thomas, Director, Division of Research and Statistics, Federal Reserve Board.

other hand, a fourth economist predicted a rise of 15 per cent both in wages and in the cost of living by June 1947.

Question No. 4: What "do you consider to be the most important (factors) in bringing about the increases" in the wholesale prices and the cost of living?

NEWSWEEK's questionnaire listed seven factors and asked the economists to add others if they desired. When an answer gave first importance to one of these points, it was given a score of three points; the second most important factor received two points and the third, one. Here is the result:

Wage-rate policy	23.5
Inadequate gov't controls	18
Public "liquid savings"	15.5

From the Capital: The Untold Story of the Nazi Saboteurs

proposition. The trial record reads: "A proposal was made to Dasch that he plead guilty to the charge of coming to the United States on a mission for the Germans. It was part of the proposal to Dasch that after his plea of guilty he should be sentenced, that he should not divulge anything with respect to this agreement during the proceedings [the trial] and that several months after the case had died down the FBI would obtain a Presidential pardon for him. Dasch at first agreed to the proposition and then stated he would not go through with it. [Agent] Wills stated that thereupon he and Johnstone made an effort to persuade Dasch to go through with the proposed course of action, telling Dasch that he should have some consideration for his father and mother and relatives over in German-occupied countries who would be liable to retaliation by the Germans."

Dasch demanded to be exonerated. But he made a poor impression at the trial. A highly nervous man, he acted up, created unpleasant situations, and fought with his own counsel. He was given 30 years in prison.

Dasch is still in Atlanta. Ever since going there he has begged for permission to write his own story. Authorities refuse to let him have even a pencil. He is held incommunicado.

The Department of Justice is considering steps to have him pardoned. But Dasch is a military prisoner, and the Army must make a request for his pardon. So far the Army has either forgotten him or ignored him.

The Case of Ernest Burger

Burger, a resident of the Midwest for years, was taken into custody by FBI agents at the Governor Clinton Hotel the day after Dasch confessed in Washington.

The saboteurs who landed on Long Island had orders to carry nothing of German origin ashore with them. But Burger disobeyed. With him from the U-boat he took a partially filled bottle of schnapps and a package of German cigarettes. He purposely dropped the cigarettes near the edge of the water, and the schnapps a little further up the beach. He threw away his cap, which bore the insignia of the German Marine Infantry. It was his plan to leave a clear trail to the spot where the saboteurs buried their boxes of explosives.

Walking along the shore, Burger dropped numerous other articles—socks, shoes, a vest, bathing trunks, and raincoat. While burying the boxes, he purposely dragged a sea bag through the sand, leaving a track which might be discovered. He buried the sea bag with the top exposed a bit and also left a spade lying on the shore. The drag marks of the

bag were spotted by searchers and led to the explosives.

Burger claimed, and Dasch confirmed the assertion, that before they left Germany both men knew of each other's intention to defeat the mission. In Paris, en route to Lorient, Dasch and Burger had their first lengthy conversation about disclosing the plot. There, according to Burger, Dasch talked with an American who was to be returned to the United States on an exchange ship, revealing his plan to surrender to the FBI. Dasch, with Burger's knowledge, did this so he could prove that even before sailing he had no intention of going through with the sabotage.

In their room at the Governor Clinton Hotel, Burger and Dasch put their cards on the table, formulating their plan to surrender.

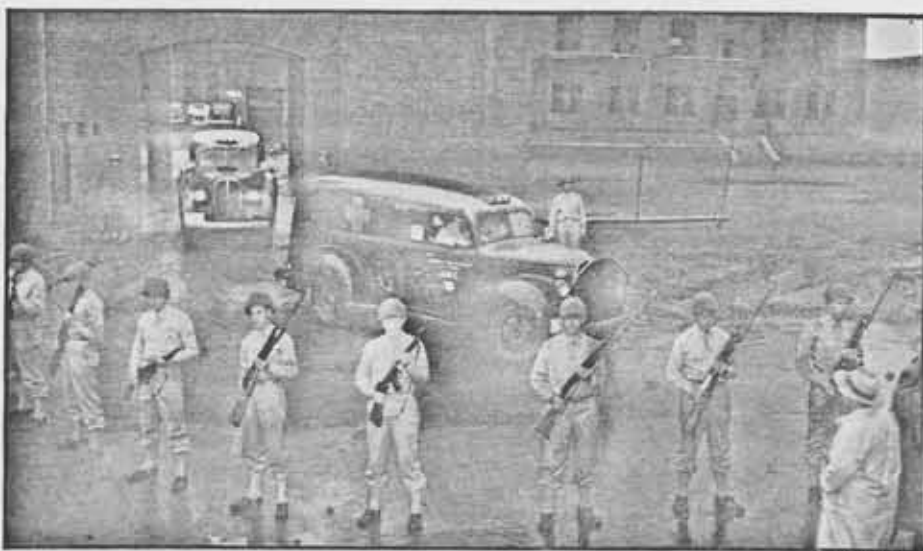
The trial record states: "That evening [Saturday] Dasch stated he had a plan which would keep them out of difficulty in the United States. The discussion was resumed the following morning at which

Burger testified that the reason Dasch waited from Sunday to Thursday to go to Washington was because "Dasch had more or less of a nervous breakdown."

Burger remained in his room at the Governor Clinton most of Saturday, June 20, as he expected to receive some word from Dasch in Washington or from the FBI. He left his door unlocked. At 5 p.m. agents entered and arrested him.

Burger had been an aide-de-camp to the purged Storm Trooper Chief Ernst Roehm. Suspected of being disloyal, Burger was charged with falsification of papers and imprisoned for seventeen months, after which the charges were dismissed. But during his imprisonment, the Gestapo told Mrs. Burger that her husband had stolen money and would be sentenced to serve eight years in a chain gang. The Gestapo advised Mrs. Burger to get a divorce.

The trial document states: "This false information caused Burger's wife, who was pregnant at the time, to have a miscarriage and a nervous breakdown."



International

Burger and Dasch went to jail, the bodies of their six companions to unmarked graves

time Dasch told Burger that when he returned to Germany he found conditions there much worse than he had expected and that he believed the present German regime should be overthrown. Burger then told Dasch that he had left the articles on the beach in the hope that they would be discovered. It was agreed to telephone the New York office of the FBI that they were going to see J. Edgar Hoover.

"They did not wish to go to the New York office because they had been told in Germany that all FBI offices, except the headquarters in Washington, were being watched by the agents of the Gestapo. Dasch made the call to the New York office about 7:30 p.m."

This made Burger very bitter against the Gestapo . . . He did not desire to leave by unlawful methods because of fear of retribution against his wife. He therefore volunteered for service outside of Germany, which resulted in his subsequent trip to the United States."

After his arrest Burger supplied the FBI with information about the German Secret Service, told how he had heard while in Lorient that two German naval experts were en route to New Jersey, and outlined operations of Gestapo agents in Central and South America.

No proposition was made to Burger by FBI agents such as that offered Dasch. Burger escaped execution but received a sentence of life imprisonment.

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WASHINGTON TIDES

Our Gropings on the Atom

by ERNEST K. LINDLEY

The Prime Ministers of Britain and Canada are arriving to discuss with President Truman what to do about the atomic bomb (see Foreign Affairs). This is an appropriate time to bring up to date a summary of American official thinking on the subject.

Perhaps the correct word would be "groping" instead of "thinking." Most officials, like most civilians, are feeling their way. Very few are sure enough of themselves to speak dogmatically. Nevertheless, certain trends of thought, and even certain tentative conclusions, are emerging. The following, in particular, deserve to be noted:



1—The time factor of safety. Whereas many scientists say another nation, working independently, could duplicate the atomic bomb in two to five years, many engineers and industrialists who worked on the American project say it would take longer: up to ten or fifteen years. Top scientists, such as Dr. Vannevar Bush and President James B. Conant, say from five to fifteen years. Some high ranking officials are using eight years as a working hypothesis.

These longer estimates fortify the instinct to keep the bomb as a United States-British-Canadian monopoly as long as possible. They comfort officials who admit that international controls will have to be devised, but would rather let their successors shoulder the responsibility for giving to others information which might lead to the destruction of the nation.

Other officials not only regard the eight-year estimate as very dubious but argue that delay in setting up effective controls will inevitably intensify international suspicions and lead to a disastrous race in armaments.

2—Maintaining our head start. A few officials contend that with our present head start, be it five years or eight, and continued intensive research and development—perhaps at the rate of \$1,000,000,000 a year—we can expect to maintain a safe advantage. The answer is that: (a) no defense against atomic warfare is in sight, and (b) superior atomic weapons will not do us much good if an enemy hits us first with inferior but still effective atomic weapons. This answer is overwhelmingly supported by scientific and technical opinion.

3—Outlawing the atomic bomb. When the President made this proposal it was assumed that he was thinking of a simple agreement not to use atomic weapons, comparable to the international convention prohibiting the use of poisonous gas. But it is generally conceded that the aggressors in the second world war would have used gas if they had thought it would be decisive and if they had not feared retaliation. As Dr. Conant warned last week, atomic energy is a different order of weapon. It is so destructive that it might be used with instantly decisive effect and so without fear of serious retaliation.

In the bare form in which he set it forth, the President's proposal was so palpably inadequate that persons close to the White House have been explaining that he meant, of course, "effective" outlawing of the atomic bomb—an agreement which would be implemented.

4—International supervision. No one has yet suggested an "effective" way of outlawing atomic weapons which would not require an international inspection force free to go anywhere in any nation at any time. The scientists say that it is technically feasible to detect and prevent research and manufacture of atomic weapons without restricting research and development of atomic energy for peaceful purposes.

Informal discussions in the Administration and Congress show a steady trend toward the conclusion that eventually an international inspection force must be set up. From this necessarily follows the conclusion that any nation which refuses to submit to inspection must be treated as an aggressor.

Some officials ask: "Suppose Russia won't agree to international inspection—or agrees to it now and later withdraws? Would the United States be willing to go to war against Russia?"

The only answer they get is: "Let's see first if Russia won't agree."

These, briefly, are the major trends of thought on the atomic bomb in Washington as Messrs. Truman, Attlee and King forgather to see if the ingenuity of the politicians can catch up with the ingenuity of the scientists.

27 APR 1946

MAY 17 1946

SPJGJ 1946/1139

MAY 17 1946

TO: Operations Br, AGO,
Room 1D-863, Pentagon

FROM: Mil Just Div, JAGO,
Room 2C-456, Pentagon

DATE

COMMENT NO. 2
Capt. Ford/5506

1. By transmittal sheet dated 7 May 1946 request is made for information upon which to base a reply to memorandum dated 3 May 1946 from Senator Robert F. Wagner requesting a report on the inclosed letter from Mr. Harris N. Cookingham, 290 Riverside Drive, New York City 25, New York, regarding clemency in the case of George John Dasch and Ernest Peter Burger, German saboteurs convicted by military commission.

2. It is suggested that Senator Wagner be advised substantially as follows:

"The voluminous record of trial in the case of George John Dasch and Ernest Peter Burger, German saboteurs convicted by military commission, has been re-examined in the War Department in connection with a study of the matter of granting clemency to these persons. Mr. Cookingham has sent two letters similar to the one inclosed with your memorandum, and with the identical inclosure, directly to the War Department. He has been assured that his comments and recommendations are being considered in connection with the study mentioned."

FOR THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL:

1 Incl
n/c

Ford, PH/cfs-mrc

Signed

ALBERT W. JOHNSON, Colonel, JAGD
Chief, Military Justice Division

10107 11/012-110

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11/012

CHIEF, NATIONAL SERVICE DIVISION
VICTIMS OF CONSPIRACY, CONSPIRACY, CONSPIRACY

2:10 PM

17 MAY 46 AM

FOR THE ABOVE VICTIMS OF CONSPIRACY:

After the above mentioned, the following information is being furnished to the National Service Division, Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice, for the purpose of identifying the persons who are the victims of the conspiracy. The information is being furnished to the National Service Division, Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice, for the purpose of identifying the persons who are the victims of the conspiracy. The information is being furnished to the National Service Division, Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice, for the purpose of identifying the persons who are the victims of the conspiracy.



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RFB:KM

AGAO-C 383.4
(3 May 46)

22 May 1946

Honorable Robert F. Wagner
United States Senate

Dear Senator Wagner:

This is in further reply to your communication of 3 May 1946, inclosing a letter from Mr. Harris N. Cookingham, c/o Fitch C. Bryant, Esq., 290 Riverside Drive, New York 25, New York, regarding the trial of George Dasch and Ernest Burger.

The voluminous record of trial in the case of George John Dasch and Ernest Peter Burger, German saboteurs convicted by military commission, has been re-examined in the War Department in connection with a study of the matter of granting clemency to these persons.

Mr. Cookingham has sent two letters similar to the one which you forwarded, and with the identical inclosure directly to the War Department. He has been assured that his comments and recommendations are being considered in connection with the study mentioned.

Sincerely yours,

EDWARD F. WITSELL

EDWARD F. WITSELL
Major General
The Adjutant General

1 Incl.
Ltr. from Mr. Cookingham
w/1 Incl.

Copies for:

Chief, Legislative & Liaison Division, WDSS
The Judge Advocate General, Military Justice Division
re your Comment No. 2 to Operations Br., AGO, 17 May
46, SPJGJ 1946/1139

Oper. Br., A. G. O.  Ext. 71718

AUG 8 1946

JAGJ 1946/1139

AUG 8 1946

Mrs. Marie C. Dasch
3706 Kumbouts Avenue
New York City 6, New York

Dear Mrs. Dasch:

In reply to your letter of 1 August 1946, your statements relative to your husband's innocence have been carefully considered. There is no way at this time to undertake any review of the findings of the court, which are final. As to clemency, you have been informed that the matter of clemency for your husband is now under consideration in the War Department. Please be assured that you will be promptly advised when a final decision with respect thereto is reached.

Sincerely yours,

Signed

awj

ALBERT W. JOHNSON
Colonel, JAGD
Chief, Military Justice Division

Hughes, Wm. J., Jr/cfs



MAILED 3

10/10/46 10:46 AM

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1946

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WASHINGTON, D.C.

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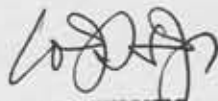
JAGJ 1946/1139

26 July 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR (1) Colonel Hoover
(2) General Green

SUBJECT: Dasch and Burger

I showed the attached draft to George Washington, Dept. of Justice., who said he thought it was the proper answer. He has taken up the Dasch and Burger matter with Mr. Bennett, Director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, and will let me know later of their views. In the meantime, it was agreed to hold the matter without action.


WM. J. HUGHES, JR.
Colonel, JAGD



JAGJ 1946/1139

Mr. Norman Thomas
71 Irving Place
New York 3, New York

Dear Mr. Thomas:

In reply to your letter of 12 July 1946, inclosing a copy of a letter of the same date to The Attorney General relative to clemency in the case of George John Dasch, one of the saboteurs, you are advised that this matter is under consideration in the War Department at the present time. You will be notified when a final decision is reached.

Sincerely yours,

THOMAS H. GREEN
Major General
The Judge Advocate General

Hughes, WM. J., Jr/cfs

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

29 July 1946

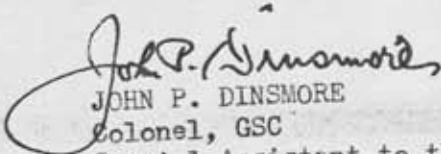
In reply refer to
WDSLL/963-702

MEMORANDUM FOR THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL:

SUBJECT: Prisoners Dasch and Berger, convicted saboteurs

1. Transmitted herewith is a letter to this Division from Mr. Norman Thomas, 71 Irving Place, New York, 3, New York, with further reference to the above subject.
2. This letter is forwarded for consolidation with previous correspondence pertaining to Prisoner Dasch heretofore transmitted to you.
3. It is requested that direct reply to Mr. Thomas be made with regard to Prisoner Berger, as well as Prisoner Dasch.

FOR THE CHIEF, LEGISLATIVE AND LIAISON DIVISION:


JOHN P. DINSMORE
Colonel, GSC
Special Assistant to the Chief

Incl

29 July 1946

In reply refer to
WDSL/963-702

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FOR THE CHIEF, LEGISLATIVE AND LIAISON DIVISION:

JOHN P. DINSMORE
Colonel, GSC
Special Assistant to the Chief

Incl

JAGJ 1946/1139

6 - AUG 1946

Mr. Norman Thomas
71 Irving Place
New York 3, New York

Dear Mr. Thomas:

In reply to your letter of 12 July 1946, inclosing a copy of a letter of the same date to The Attorney General, and your letter of 26 July 1946, relative to clemency in the case of George John Dasch and Ernest Peter Burger, two of the saboteurs, you are advised that this matter is under consideration in the War Department at the present time. You will be notified when a final decision is reached.

Sincerely yours,

6 AUG 46 PM



DISPATCHED
WAR DEPARTMENT
1946

159

THOMAS H. GREEN
Major General
The Judge Advocate General

THG *ALB*

Hughes, Wm. J., J/cfs

awj